

## Miller, Kristina

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**From:** Kondreck, Robert  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 27, 2019 11:41 AM  
**To:** Zintak, Leonard; R5 ER Notification List  
**Cc:** Miller, Kristina; Maritote, John; Mendoza, Ramon; Haag, Daniel  
**Subject:** R5 ER Notification #2 - Camras School Mercury Spill, Chicago, Cook County, Illinois  
**Attachments:** IMG\_0497.jpg; IMG\_0499.jpg; IMG\_0500.jpg

### **Region 5 ER Notification #2:** Camras School Mercury Spill, Chicago, Illinois (NRC Report #1241158)

**Report as of:** 1100 hrs CST, March 27, 2019

**Overview:** Students were discovered handling mercury by Chicago Public School District (CPS) staff at Camras School located at 3000 N. Mango St in Chicago, Illinois on March 26, 2019. A broken barometer was the source of the unknown amount of mercury. CPS staff discovered the students handling the mercury and contacted the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) and Chicago Fire Department (CFD) for assistance in evaluating the threat. CPS, CDPH, and CFD determined the students involved in the handling of the mercury, assessed where the mercury could be tracked, and performed targeted screening prior to students leaving for the day. Elevated mercury levels were discovered in various parts of the building during the initial assessment.

On March 27, 2019, CPS temporary closed Camras School and exercised their contingency plan where students would attend classes at nearby schools. CPS has hired a cleanup contractor to recover mercury beads and remove any residual mercury that was tracked in the school.

**State, Local, and other Federal Agency Action:** CDPH and CFD initially responded to the mercury spill. Illinois EPA was informed of the mercury spill. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) was contacted for technical assistance.

**EPA Actions:** OSC Kristina Miller responded with two Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) contractors around 2100 hrs on March 26, 2019 to provide technical assistance and assess various parts of the School. Elevated readings were discovered in multiple classrooms and common spaces. CDPH and CPS were notified of these areas.

On March 27, 2019, EPA deployed two OSCs and four START contractors to continue to assist CDPH and CPS in determining the extent of the mercury contamination. EPA is currently assisting CDPH and CPS to determine if mercury has migrated off-site.

**Media Interest:** None known at this time.

### **EPA Region 5 OSC contacts:**

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